

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibilities of the State Governments.

The Superintendent of Police Rajmundri (East Godawari) District visited the place and held a meeting with Christian elders to assuage their feelings and assured them of appropriate action against the culprits.

Unilateral ceasefire by Hizbul Mujahideen

2525. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the announcement made by the Hizbul Mujahideen, Pro-Pakistani militant outfit, for a unilateral ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto; and
- (c) whether Government propose to invite them for dialogue for solution of the Kashmir problem and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government had made initial contacts with Hizbul-Mujahideen leadership, in order to discuss the modalities for holding dialouge for 'restoration of peace in J&K. Hizbul-Mujahideen has however since withdrawn the cease-fire. The Government will consider any move of talks with all those in Kashmir who eschew the path of terror and violence. However Government would continue its battle against all those who continue to stick to the path of terrorism.